

CONGRESS MAY DROP
NEW HAVEN INQUIRY

Rules Committee Members Anxious Not to Embarrass Federal Investigations.

TALKING OF A COMPROMISE

If Action Is Decided On the Matter Will Probably Be Turned Over to a Standing Committee.

(From The Tribune Bureau.)
Washington, Dec. 12.—A disposition not to embarrass the investigations begun by the Department of Justice and the Interstate Commerce Commission of the traffic agreement between the Grand Trunk and the New York, New Haven & Hartford and other affairs of the New England road is evident on the part of members of the House Rules Committee, who failed to take action to-day on the O'Shaughnessy resolution demanding an investigation of the railroad deal by a special House committee.

The Rules Committee postponed action until Saturday, and possibly Monday, on the O'Shaughnessy resolution, on which the committee closed last night. Chairman Henry announced that the New England controversy was not even considered to-day.

Inquiry among the members of the Rules Committee indicates there is little support of the plan to have a special inquiry body named by the House. It is a congressional inquiry is ordered, it probably will be delegated to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, and will be conducted along such lines as that body may determine.

Compromise Possible.

It is possible the Rules Committee will compromise the matter and partially approve the protesting New Englanders by referring the Grand Trunk and New Haven deal to the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee. This course would be less expensive and would afford the publicity desired by New England of the details of the traffic arrangement which is alleged to be conducive to continued "domination" of that section by the New Haven road.

The Attorney General will receive a full report on Saturday from Jesse C. Adkins, Assistant Attorney General, who has been the personal representative in the grand jury investigation of the relations between the New Haven and the Grand Trunk, and the conference may result in the inquiry taking a new angle.

It is not expected by Department of Justice officials that there will be important developments in the grand jury investigation this week, although the belief is current here that testimony to be offered next week will be of a startling character and will probably afford ample evidence on which to base indictments. From the outset of the investigation it has been thought that indictments would be returned, and this is now almost a certainty.

Investigation Widened.

The scope of investigation has been widened by facts gathered by the Interstate Commerce Commission's agents, and there is a strong probability that there will be prosecutions by the state authorities, in addition to expected criminal action by the government. "Criminal negligence" is a term used freely by Interstate Commerce Commission officials in discussing the investigations, and it is noted that the responsibility will be fixed high up in the executive force of the road.

By Telegraph to The Tribune.

Boston, Dec. 12.—Governor Foss expressed himself to-day in favor of calling a conference of all the New England Governors to consider the monopoly of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad and the Grand Trunk's abandonment of its proposed extensions.

"I have seen suggestions that I, as Governor of Massachusetts, call a conference of New England Governors to discuss the railroad situation," Mr. Foss said. "I think it a most excellent plan, and I favor it thoroughly."

"I doubt the wisdom, however, of calling such a conference immediately. In view of the federal investigations now in progress, the calling of such a conference might complicate matters."

Forfeiture of the charters of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad and two subsidiary lines is asked for in a bill filed in the Supreme Court to-day by Patrick J. Baughman, of Brooklyn. The billants are the New Haven road, the New York, Providence & Boston, and the Providence & Worcester company.

Mr. Baughman owned land in Worcester which was taken by the Providence & Worcester road for freight yard purposes by right of eminent domain. This action was recently affirmed by the Supreme Court, but Mr. Baughman maintained that while the road was leased to the New York, Providence & Boston the subsequent lease of the latter road to the New Haven was never authorized or ratified by law. The suit will be heard on December 17.

The federal grand jury investigating New England traffic conditions and the Grand Trunk-New Haven traffic agreement examined only three witnesses yesterday, but the appearance of Frank L. Crawford, a standard oil attorney, added significance to the day's proceedings.

The rumor that Mr. Crawford had called to explain to Jesse C. Adkins, Assistant Attorney General, that William Rockefeller could not appear before the grand jury on account of sickness was denied by federal officials. It was learned, however, that Mr. Crawford's visit was due to a desire expressed by

THE DAY IN WASHINGTON

(From The Tribune Bureau.)
Washington, Dec. 12.
Acme of Democratic Folly.

It is gradually dawning on the Democratic leaders of the House that they have reached the acme of their folly in intrusting the investigation of the so-called "money trust" to the Pujol committee. This is the one investigation undertaken by the Democrats which is worthy of the name, and which is directed at actual evils. Hampered on every side by the most untoward conditions, Samuel Undermyer is really bringing to light facts of the utmost importance, which may prove of vital moment to the commercial welfare of the nation, and which, undoubtedly, are in large measure responsible for that distrust which so many of the voters entertain for the managers of a false finance which Senator Root so seriously deplored in his recent able address before the New York Chamber of Commerce.

The almost incalculable power exercised by a few financiers with practically unlimited resources; the unconscionable methods employed by them to manipulate entire industries; to create wholly artificial shortages of commodities; to sell securities at prices so boosted to figures wholly disproportionate to their value, and even to sell short to an amazing extent, an operation followed by releasing the dammed up commodity and thus bearing the market, to a point which yielded inordinate profits to those who, being on the inside, had sold securities they did not possess; all these things are being brought to light by the searching cross-examination of Mr. Undermyer, but before a committee which has been regarded largely as a joke, and which gives every evidence of its utter incapacity either to grasp the facts presented or to utilize them, either in the formulation of an intelligent and comprehensive report or as a basis for recommendations for legislative enactment.

Startling disclosures of the monopolistic methods of the clearing houses have been made, and yet, in accordance with true Democratic stupidity, the committee charged with devising a new fiscal system, one which would remedy existing evils and forestall others, is conducting a wholly distinct investigation, and because of petty jealousy has warned the members of the Pujol committee and its counsel that its members want no interference or advice from them. The men before whom Mr. Undermyer is bringing to light the startling disclosures are for the most part unversed in finance, give abundant evidence of confused thinking on the simplest transactions of modern business, know little or nothing of banking and banking methods and create the impression that the significance of most of the disclosures is wholly lost on them.

If Mr. Undermyer is permitted without serious interference to frame the report which embodies the results of the investigation, it may prove of considerable value, although it is obvious that it must fall far short of the worth it might possess were he conducting the investigation before a body of men competent to deal with the subject and to exert intelligent judgment in the preparation of the report. Were it not for the inordinate jealousy of the Glass committee, which is supposed to be conducting an investigation of the banking features of the financial problem, its members might, and unquestionably would, profit from the disclosures before the Pujol committee, but, under the circumstances, that they will do so is improbable. And one of the gravest defects of the Pujol committee is the fact that its chairman will retire to private life on March 4.

Democrats and Confirmations.

Democratic members of the Senate held a conference to-day to decide on their course regarding President Taft's nominations, but were unable to reach any agreement.

The investigators to have certain of Mr. Rockefeller's papers submitted to them. The witnesses examined were George C. Jones, general manager of the Vermont Central Railroad; J. E. Dalrymple, vice-president of the Grand Trunk Railroad; and N. Kinsella, private secretary to E. J. Chamberlin, president of the Grand Trunk.

MAY LIMIT HUDSON WORK

Department Opposes New River Improvement Projects.

(From The Tribune Bureau.)
Washington, Dec. 12.—In a report sent to the House to-day the War Department disapproves of the present any improvement of the Hudson River other than existing projects.

These projects contemplate a channel twelve feet deep, at lowest low water, and 200 feet wide, from Waterford to the state dam at Troy, and generally, 400 feet wide from that point to Hudson, with additional widths at Albany and Troy, and a new lock and dam at Troy, to replace the present one, built by the state in 1881.

HURRYING ARCHBALD TRIAL

Effort to Close Prosecution of Judge by To-morrow.

(From The Tribune Bureau.)
Washington, Dec. 12.—In order to complete the taking of testimony in support of the charges against Judge Robert W. Archbald by Saturday, the managers for the House cut short the hearing of several witnesses to-day, making no attempt to go into details in cases in which there was no disagreement as to facts involved. The judge's attorneys hope to complete their testimony next week.

William E. Lamb, an attorney for the Interstate Commerce Commission; J. A. Smith, rate commissioner of the New Orleans Board of Trade; S. G. Warriner, vice-president and general manager of the Lehigh Coal Company; G. E. Kirkpatrick,

superintendent of the Girard estate; James Archibald, Jr., engineer of the Girard estate and a nephew of Judge Archbald, were questioned concerning some of the many transactions in which Judge Archbald was interested and submitted several letters written by him.

The greater part of to-day's proceedings was taken up with consideration of Judge Archbald's efforts to subvert customs belonging to the Girard estate. His counsel made no effort to controvert the testimony of witnesses, but contented themselves with bringing out the fact that Judge Archbald made no attempt to conceal his part in this transaction.

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LIE PASSED IN HOUSE

Representatives Palmer and Farr in Clash.

IN FEAR OF FISTICUFFS

Trouble Over Accusation of Republican That Lackawanna Aided Democrat.

(From The Tribune Bureau.)
Washington, Dec. 12.—While the sergeant-at-arms nervously flung the newly repaired mace, Representative Palmer, a Pennsylvania Democrat, denounced in the House to-day as a "wilful, deliberate and malicious falsehood" the accusation of his colleague, Representative Farr, a Pennsylvania Republican, that the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad had forced its employees to vote for Mr. Palmer in the recent elections.

The tilt between the two Pennsylvanians, which occasioned fears of fist-cuffs, took place during the partisan dispute over the resolution to unseat Representative Charles C. Bowman, of the 11th Pennsylvania District, who was finally deprived of his seat by Democratic votes.

Immediately following the speech of Mr. Farr, Representative Palmer, a Wilson lieutenant in the recent campaign, arose to a question of personal privilege and demanded that Mr. Farr prove his insinuations or "apologize like a man."

"It is true," said Mr. Palmer, white with rage, "that I am the local attorney of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad in Monroe County. I have been since I was admitted to the bar, and it is no secret, but so far as the statement of the gentleman, Mr. Farr, that I have ever solicited that corporation or any other corporation to coerce its employees to vote for me or anybody else is concerned, it is a deliberate, wilful and malicious falsehood."

"If this charge is true I should not be permitted to remain in this House and should be driven from it. If it is not true, the gentleman should offer a public apology, like a man. If he believes his statement, he should bring charges against me, and I promise I will not indulge in demands for a thirty days' notice of contest."

Mr. Palmer accused Mr. Farr of beginning an attack when he, Palmer, was absent from the chamber. The Pennsylvania Democrat read from the stenographic notes of the Farr speech, and when the former had finished Mr. Farr walked over to the Democratic side and unceremoniously took the transcript.

In reply to Representative Palmer, his Republican colleague stood pat on his statement that "the officials of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western helped you to be elected and rendered service in your district." Mr. Farr said he did not intend to charge in so many words that coercion was used, but he insisted it was inconsistent for Mr. Palmer to talk of "coercion" in the Bowman contest case.

Mr. Farr, who is small and wiry, pranced down the aisles and referred in sarcastic terms to the Democratic "reform" movement in Pennsylvania, which he termed a "conspiracy."

"It was this so-called reform movement, or conspiracy, which helped to defeat the beloved Speaker of this House at the Baltimore convention," said Mr. Farr, while the Clarkites in the House cheered. The Speaker looked embarrassed and rapped loudly for order.

The verbal duel was a draw, and Mr. Farr did not accept the challenge of Representative Palmer to file charges, although the former maintained to the end that Mr. Palmer's speech on "coercion" in the Bowman case was out of place.

Representative Bowman was unseated by the passage, 162 to 115, of a resolution declaring that corrupt practices had been used in his election in 1910. At the same time the House refused, 181 to 88, to seat George R. McLean, his Democratic opponent. It was charged on the floor that he had been guilty of the same practices as were alleged against Bowman. The seat from the 11th District will be vacant until March 4, when it will be filled by John J. Casey, a Democrat, elected in November.

CHANGE IN PACIFIC COMMAND

Honolulu, Dec. 12.—It was announced here to-day that Rear Admiral W. C. Cowles, commandant of the United States naval station at Honolulu, would be relieved on February 21.

It was stated unofficially that he would become commander of the Pacific fleet. No information was obtainable as to who would succeed him.

U. S. UNDERMINING CUBAN AUTONOMY, SAYS LAURIER

Says This Constitutes a Warning to Canada Not to Rely on Monroe Doctrine for Protection from Attack.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.)
Ottawa, Dec. 12.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier in his speech opening the naval debate to-night dwelt at considerable length on the proposition that Canada must stand by England and rebuked those Quebec politicians who, in opposing him last year, said Canada could depend on the Monroe Doctrine for safety from foreign aggression. After referring to the general dissatisfaction over the outcome of Canada's career when managed by British diplomats and to the fact that in Dominion managed cases of international disputes Canada had always won, he said:

"The only conclusion we can draw is that in these matters British diplomats were not so well informed as those of the United States. This shows conclusively that local matters are always better dealt with by those who are responsible for local administration."

"It has been said in Quebec that we could rely upon the Monroe Doctrine. To any one who believes that I would refer the record of Cuba after the Spanish-American war. The Cubans appealed to the United States for help in removing the yoke of Spain and they got it, but when, with the assistance of the United States, they had freed them-

selves they found they had a dear price to pay. That price was the abandonment of a portion of their independence. Their constitution had to go to Washington for revision, and conditions were imposed distasteful to the Cuban people. The United States has made the Cubans pay heavily for assistance by undermining their independence."

"This example," added Sir Wilfrid, "shows that we have to take our share in the defence not only of our native shores but in the defence of the empire as a whole, and that we can do only by the assistance of the mother country."

Speaking scornfully of Mr. Borden's \$35,000,000 campaign for dreadnoughts he said:

"What is this contribution that we have before us? It is big in money, it is big in figures, but it is otherwise as big as it might be? You give to England two or three dreadnoughts, to be paid for by Canada, but to be maintained and manned by England. Did I say manned? I must qualify that statement, because the Prime Minister has told us that he had secured from the imperial authorities the privilege of having Canadian officers serve on those ships."

While nothing has been finally decided regarding the President's post-inauguration plans, it is probable that he will go to Georgia on March 4, probably to Augusta, and there devote a month to rest and the formulation of plans for the future. Any predictions beyond that month are at this time pure surmise.

TAFT'S PLANS UNCERTAIN

May Go South on March 4—Considering Yale Offer.

(From The Tribune Bureau.)
Washington, Dec. 12.—All sorts of rumors are afloat regarding the President's plans following the close of his term. The only facts on which a majority of them are based are that some one at some time has made such a suggestion to Mr. Taft or some member of his family, and that some one has replied noncommittally. "That's interesting," Mr. Taft has taken under serious consideration the offer of the Kent chair of law at Yale, but has reached no decision regarding it.

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